

R E M A R K S

Claims 63, 67-69, 71-74, 78-83 and 85-87 are pending. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 64-65, 70, 75-77 and 84. Additionally, due to the cancellation of these claims, the dependency of claims 67-69, 71-73, 78-83 and 85-87 have been amended. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by way of the present submission. Additionally, no new issues have been raised by way of the present submission. For instance, Applicants have simply cancelled claims, which the Examiner has deemed to be non-elected subject matter. Thus, no issues have been raised which would require additional search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner.

In the event that the present submission does not place the application into condition for allowance, entry thereof is respectfully requested as placing the application into better form for Appeal.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Advisory Action dated March 9, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 63, 67-69, 71-74, 78-83 and 85-87 as amended on November 5, 2003, would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment cancelling the non-allowable claims. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have cancelled the non-allowable claims, leaving only the claims, which were indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a Divisional Application, or Divisional Applications directed to the deleted subject matter.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie (Reg. No. 42,874) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Appl. No. 09/227,518

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #42874
Leonard R. Svensson, #30,330

LRS/CAM:bmp
3759-0113P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000